

Appl. No. 10/786,373

Reply to Office Action of February 13, 2006

REMARKS

In the February 13, 2006 Office Action, claims 1-13 and 24-46 were rejected. Claims 15-23 were earlier withdrawn in response to a restriction requirement. This Response amends claims 1, 12, 24, 30, 34, 35, 38, and 40. After entry of the foregoing amendments, claims 1-13 and 24-46 (36 total claims; 3 independent claims) remain pending in the application.

As a preliminary matter, Applicants and Applicants' representative thank the Examiner for her time and consideration of claims 1-13 and 24-46, as amended herein, during a telephone interview of Wednesday, March 22, 2006. During the interview, the Examiner and Applicants' representative discussed the amended claims in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,595,529, issued to Cesna et al. on January 21, 1997, U.S. Patent No. 4,315,383, issued to Day on Feb. 16, 1982, U.S. 6,196,907, issued to Kahn on March 6, 2001, and U.S. Patent No. 4,007,560, issued to Janssen on Feb. 15, 1977. The Examiner indicated that the claims, as now amended, are allowable over the cited prior art and overcome the Section 112 rejections set forth in the Office Action.

CONCLUSION

Should the Examiner have any questions or wish to further discuss this application, Applicants request that the Examiner contact the undersigned attorney at (480) 385-5060.

If for some reason Applicants have not requested a sufficient extension and/or have not paid a sufficient fee for this response and/or for the extension necessary to prevent abandonment on this application, please consider this as a request for an extension for the required time period and/or authorization to charge Deposit Account No. 50-2091 for any fee which may be due.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: March 29, 2006

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